






Wetlands

Although the Fish Creek Management Unit contains approximately 16,000 acres of prime agricultural lands it also contains approximately 10-12,000 acres of wetlands. These wetlands occur in large areas in a dendritic pattern along the lateral drainages of Fish Creek. The wetlands provide the following important environmental functions:

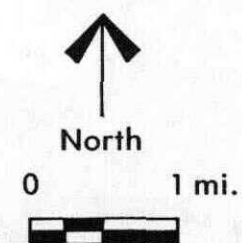
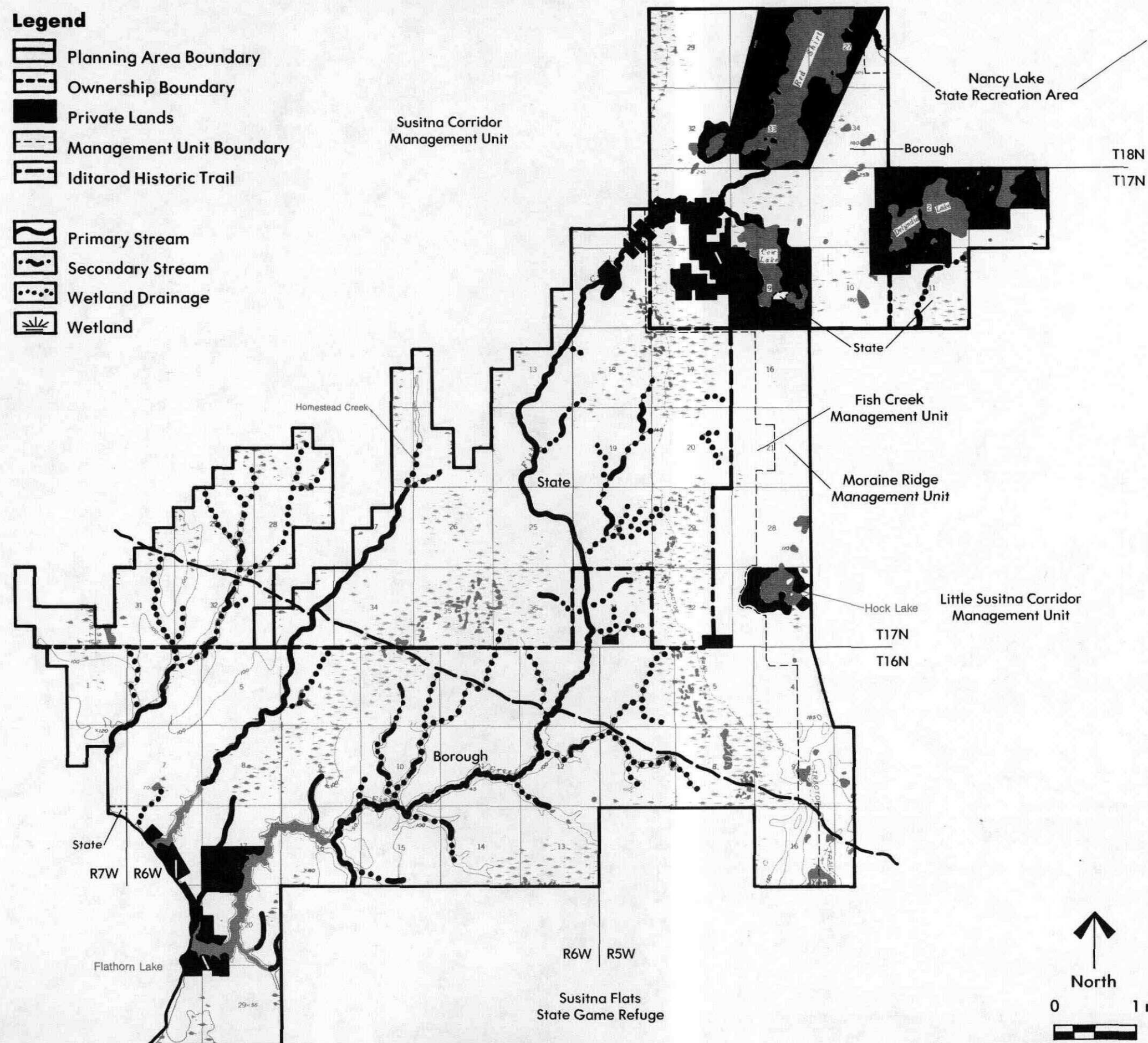
- a) Water quality: wetlands serve to filter nutrients and sediment from upland run-off.
- b) Water supply: wetlands serve to stabilize water supply by retaining excessive water during flooding and recharging groundwater during dry periods.
- c) Habitat/recreation: wetlands provide important feeding, nesting, and breeding grounds for many wildlife and fish species; related recreational use is also important.

The wetlands in the Fish Creek Unit are particularly important to the quality of water in Fish Creek itself. Returning salmon runs to this creek exceed 7,000 fish annually. In addition, when agricultural development occurs, the wetlands will become a major waterfowl hunting area for Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley residents.

Legend

-  Planning Area Boundary
-  Ownership Boundary
-  Private Lands
-  Management Unit Boundary
-  Iditarod Historic Trail

-  Primary Stream
-  Secondary Stream
-  Wetland Drainage
-  Wetland



FISH CREEK Management Plan

Surface Hydrology